

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 /014 W

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R 231000Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO ROBERT MURNIN

DETROIT DIESEL

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7224

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 2126

FOR MURNIN FROM BRENNAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS

SUBJ: GABONESE NAVY PATROL BOAT ENGINE PROBLEMS

1. PER YOUR TELEX, I CONTACTED GABONESE NAVY AND SPOKE TO COMMANDANT LEFEVRE WHO ACTUALLY COMMANDS THE BOAT. HE WILL REPLY TO YOU ALSO BY TELEX TO ENSURE TECHNICAL DATA GIVE BELOW IS CORRECT:

2. LEFEVRE IS HAPPY TO INSTALL NEW VIBRATION DAMPERS ONCE YOU SEND THEM TO HIM. HOWEVER, HE ADVISES THAT A NEW MODEL OF DAMPER WAS INSTALLED IN PUERTO RICO IN JUNE. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU WISW TO GO AHEAD AND CHANGE DAMPERS ANYWAY. ADVISE AIRWAYBILL AND FLIGHT NUMBER OF THIS AND ANY OTHER ITEMS YOU MAY SEND, SUCH AS INJECTORS.

3. LEFEVRE ALSO ADVISES THAT HE RUNS ALL 3 ENGINES AT 1250 TO 1500 RPM 75 PERCENT OF THE TIME. HE SAYS HE IS UNABLE TO RUN UTH ONE OR TWO ENGINES SHUT DOWN AS THIS WOULD CAUSE GEARBOX ON SHUT-DOWN ENGINE TO HEAT UP, DUE TO LACK OF LUBRICATION, AND HE IS UNABLE TO ISOLATE GEARBOX. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. ON QUESTION OF FIRE IN EXHAUST STACKS, LEFEVRE NOTES THAT FIRE EVEN OCCURRED AT 1200 RPM, AND ENGINE HAD TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

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BROUGHT DOWN TO 600 RPM TO EXTINGUISH IT. LEFEVRE STATES

FIRE OCCURRED ONLY ONCE, AND WAS DUE TO A BAD LOAD OF  
DIESEL FUEL. HE ANTICIPATES NO FURTHER FIRE PROBLEMS.

5. TO ENSURE OUR COMMUNICATIONS GET THROUGH, I AGREE THAT  
YOU CONTINUE TO SEND TELEXES AS BEFORE. ONCE LEFEVRE GIVES  
YOU HIS TELEX NUMBER, IT STILL WOULD BE WISE TO CONTINUE  
TO SEND ME A COPY.

6. CHECK HAS NOT YET ARRIVED, PERHAPS SLOW MAILS ARE THE  
PROBLEM. KATY AND I WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A MERRY  
CHRISTMAS TOO. REGARDS. STEIGMAN

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